

# HF Happenings 761

Volume 15, Issue 24, the week of 31 July 2017



## The SARL Premier HF Contest in August

August sees the running of the South African Radio League's premier contest - the SARL HF Contest. The contest is held over three Sundays from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC on each day. On Sunday 6 August, the HF Phone contest will be run, on Sunday 20 August the HF Digital contest and on Sunday 27 August, the HF CW Contest. Each contest takes place on the 20, 40 and 80 meter bands.

You can participate as a single operator single band station, a single operator all band station, a multi operator single band station or a multi operator all band. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete. In each contest, the exchange is a RS or RST report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001.

Logs must be submitted in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign HF Phone or HF Digital or HF CW," by 13 August for the Phone contest, 27 August for the digital contest and 3 September for the CW contest. Logs must be sent to [zs4bfn@mweb.co.za](mailto:zs4bfn@mweb.co.za)

There are three trophies for the phone contest and two trophies each for the digital and CW contests. There are four trophies covering all three contests, two of these trophies go to the youth and YLs participating and there is a trophy for the Club with the best participation.

Get all the information on page 34 of the 2017 SARL Blue Book.

## New IOTA Website

"IOTA Ltd.'s IT Group has worked tirelessly on the development of the new IOTA administration software and the new IOTA website", Johan, PA3EXX, reported on 23 July. "One of the significant developments was the implementation of paperless QSLing through QSO matching via Club Log. This part has been available to the IOTA community on the existing IOTA system since July 2016. The process of adding operations that are valid for IOTA has been on-going, resulting in very large number of credits being given.

We are targeting the launch of the new IT system for early September. Software developers should be aware that this may affect any application using data from [www.rsgbiota.org](http://www.rsgbiota.org) since this website will be taken offline. Please contact us at [info@iota-world.org](mailto:info@iota-world.org) if your software uses data from [www.rsgbiota.org](http://www.rsgbiota.org) and you want to have access to this kind of data in the future".

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from  
[www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp)

## August

- 1 - Tish'a B'Av
- 5 to 12 - IARU Region 1 YOTA Summer Camp, Gilwell Park, UK
- 6 - [SARL HF Phone Contest](#)
- 9 - National Women's Day; [SARL YL Sprint](#)
- 9 to 13 - [ZS9V from Robben Island \(AF-064\)](#)
- 11 to 13 - Klein Karoo Klassique, Oudsthoorn
- 19 and 20 - [International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend](#)
- 20 - [SARL HF Digital Contest](#)
- 24 - Closing date for September Radio ZS articles
- 25 and 26 - Hantam Vleisfees, Calvinia
- 27 - [SARL HF CW Contest](#)
- 31 Aug to 3 Sept - Gariep Kunstfeees, Kimberley

## September

- 2 - Eid al Adha; West Rand Flea Market
- 3 - National Day of Prayer for the Deaf
- 2 and 3 - IARU Region 1 and RSGB SSB Field Day
- 4 - Settlers Day
- 6 - National Secretary's Day
- 9 and 10 - SARL National Field Day
- 16 - October RAE Registration closes
- 16 and 17 - All Africa All Mode Contest; SARL VHF/UHF Contest
- 16 to 23 IARU Region 1 General Conference, Germany
- 21/21 Rosh Hashana
- 22 - Spring Equinox; Islamic New Year
- 22 to 24 - 4 Peaks Challenge
- 23 and 24 - CQ RTTY Contest
- 23 Sept to 1 Oct Magoebaskloof and Hainesburg Spring festival
- 24 - Heritage Day
- 25 - Public Holiday; closing date for October Radio ZS articles
- 29 - All schools close
- 30 - Yom Kippur
- 30 Sept to 2 Oct Hermanus Whale Festival

## New book of short stories highlights 'Magic of Ham Radio'

A new book by writer Don Keith, N4KC, employs short fictional stories to demonstrate what the author calls the 'magic' still inherent in the century-old hobby of Amateur (or 'Ham') Radio.

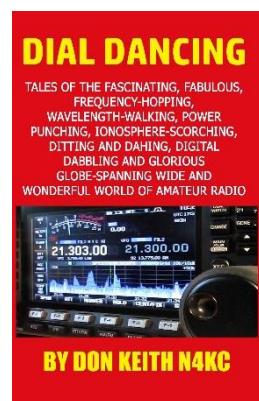
"Some claim that our hobby is old-fashioned when compared to cell phones and social media," Keith says. "That is not true. Amateur Radio is amid a resurgence and offers more excitement than ever to anyone interested in technology, communications, competition, public service, experimentation or just plain having fun."

Keith says he has written these stories to more powerfully demonstrate various aspects of the hobby, any of which might attract attention from newcomers if they were aware of how dynamic and diverse Ham Radio is today. He even went to great lengths in the book's title to emphasize the fun aspects. The book is officially titled "DIAL DANCING: Tales of the fascinating, fabulous, frequency-hopping, wavelength-walking, power punching, ionosphere-scorching, ditting and dahing, digital dancing and glorious globe-spanning wide and wonderful world of amateur radio."

Among the stories are a tale of a new licensee making a first contact with a rather interesting operator on a distant island, learning he is a part of a historical event. Another story is about a relatively new female Ham operator who takes on a bold challenge from a crotchety old-timer. Yet another tells the story of an African-American Amateur who has concerns when he learns about discrimination experienced on the airwaves by early black Ham operators.

"Many prospective Hams still don't know about how well our hobby ties in with their other interests," Keith notes. "Or how diversified our membership is nowadays. It can be as technical as someone wants, or can require very little technical knowledge or interest. That is what I hope to show in these stories. Some are funny. Some are heart-tugging. I hope all are entertaining."

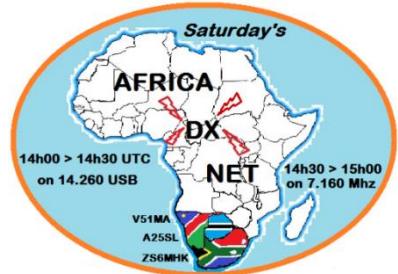
Further information at <http://www.donkeith.com/hamradio/amateur-radio>



## African DX

Lesotho, 7P. Dennis, 7P8DG, will be active from the Trading Post Lodge at Roma (Grid KG30UN) for the SARL HF Phone Contest. QSL via ZS4BS.

Lesotho, 7P. Quintus, ZS2KU, and Vaughan, ZS2VR, will be active as 7P8QM and 7P8VRR, respectively, from the Sani Stone Lodge (WW Loc. KG40PK) in the Sani Pass region between 18 and 21 August. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 metres. QSL via their home callsigns. ZS2KU has applied for a 7P8QM LoTW account.



Rwanda, 9X. Alan, KE4TA, reports, "I have just received my call sign, 9X0TA) information from the RURA. I am still awaiting shipment of my permanent operating station, but with any luck I will be QRO in the next two weeks. QSL Manager is N4GNR. Radio will be Yaesu FT-991, antenna will be a Hexbeam on a push up tower. I will be here for a total of three years, so plenty of time to work 9X. I will be active primarily be on 20 and 17 metres, but I will attempt an 80 m loop antenna as well. If it works, I will be able to work 80 and 40 as well. Noise levels here are extremely high. Please do not be offended if I'm not answering your call, I likely cannot hear you."

Burkina Faso, XT2. Harald, DF2WO, will once again be active as XT2AW from Burkina Faso between 28 September and 30 October. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. He states that he works mostly on the Digital modes (PSK31, JT65 and RTTY) and slow CW. Equipment is a FT-450D into a home-made HEX BEAM and a dipole for 40 meters. QSL via M0OXO, direct or QRSS [www.m0oxo.com/oqrs/](http://www.m0oxo.com/oqrs/).

## African Islands

### IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Robben Island, ZS. The team of Jan, ZS1VDV, Paul, ZS1V, Andre, ZS1AN, Johan, ZS1A, Pierre, ZS6A, and Oleg, ZS1ANF, will be operating as ZS9V from Robben Island (IOTA AF-064) from 9 August until sometime on Sunday 13 August. This is the weekend BEFORE the International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend!

In addition to the stations the team had last year (SSB station on 10, 15, 20 and SSB station on 40 and 80), this year they will also have a CW station operating on the high bands. Details of the CW operating bands and possible digital modes and bands will be announced closer to the time. Further information on the DXpedition will be published on [www.zs9v.org.za](http://www.zs9v.org.za) as it becomes available.

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 17 to 24 July 2017

Phone Fray  
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 2 August  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: SSB  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m  
Classes: Single Op  
Max power: 100 watts  
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station  
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 4 August 2017  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [http://www.perluma.com/Phone\\_Fray\\_Contest\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf)

CWops Mini-CWT Test  
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 2 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 August  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Awards: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high  
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: Each call once  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 5 August 2017

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest  
17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 3 August (Dig)  
Geographic Focus: Nordic Europe  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital  
Bands: 10 m Only  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 17 August 2017  
Upload log at: [http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit\\_log.php?lang=en](http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html>

QRP Fox Hunt  
0100 - 02:30 UTC 4 August  
Geographic Focus: United States  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 20 m Only  
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 5 August 2017  
E-mail logs to: (see rules)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/summary\\_rules.htm](http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/summary_rules.htm)

NCCC RTTY Sprint  
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 4 August

<p>Geographic Focus: North America  Participation: Worldwide  Mode: RTTY  Bands: (see rules)  Classes: (none)  Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  Submit logs by: 6 August 2017  E-mail logs to: (none)  Post log summary at: <a href="http://www.3830scores.com/">http://www.3830scores.com/</a>  Mail logs to: (none)  Find rules at: <a href="http://www.nccsprInternational-com/rttyns.html">http://www.nccsprInternational-com/rttyns.html</a></p>	12:00 - 23:59 UTC 5 August Geographic Focus: Europe Participation: Europe Mode: CW, SSB Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed - high or low; SWL Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts Exchange: RS(T) and 2-digit year first licensed Work stations: Once per band per mode QSO Points: 1 point per QSO Multipliers: Each 2-digit year licensed once per band Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults Submit logs by: 7 August 2017 Upload log at: <a href="http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhf_log_submission.htm">http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhf_log_submission.htm</a> Mail logs to: (none) Find rules at: <a href="http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhfcrules.htm">http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhfcrules.htm</a>
<p>NCCC Sprint  02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 August  Geographic Focus: North America  Participation: Worldwide  Mode: CW  Bands: (see rules)  Classes: (none)  Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  Submit logs by: 6 August 2017  E-mail logs to: (none)  Post log summary at: <a href="http://www.3830scores.com/">http://www.3830scores.com/</a>  Mail logs to: (none)  Find rules at: <a href="http://www.nccsprInternational-com/rules.html">http://www.nccsprInternational-com/rules.html</a></p>	North American CW QSO Party 18:00 UTC 5 August to 05:59 UTC 6 August Geographic Focus: North America Participation: Worldwide Awards: North America Mode: CW Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m Classes: Single Op - QRP or low; Multi-Two - low Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts Exchange: NA: Name and state, DC, province or country; non-NA: Name Work stations: Once per band QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station Multipliers: Each US state and DC (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults Submit logs by: 05:59 UTC 11 August 2017 E-mail logs to: (none) Upload log at: <a href="http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplog-submit/">http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplog-submit/</a>
<p>10-10 International Summer SSB Contest  00:01 UTC 5 August to 23:59 UTC 6 August  Geographic Focus: Worldwide  Participation: Worldwide  Mode: SSB  Bands: 10 m Only  Classes: Individual; Club; QRP  Max power: non-QRP: &gt;5 watts; QRP: 5 watts  Exchange: 10-10 Member: Name, 10-10 number and state, province or country; Non-Member: Name, 0 and state, province or country  QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with a non-member; 2 points per QSO with a 10-10 member  Multipliers: (none)  Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  Submit logs by: 14 August 2017  E-mail logs to: <a href="mailto:tentencontest@ten-ten.org">tentencontest@ten-ten.org</a>  Upload log at: <a href="http://hamclubs.info/scorer/">http://hamclubs.info/scorer/</a>  Mail logs to: Dan Morris, KZ3T, 3162 Covington Way, Lenoir, NC 28645, USA  Find rules at: <a href="http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules">http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules</a></p>	Mail logs to: Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, 1733 E. Broad Ave., Spokane, WA 99207, USA Find rules at: <a href="http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf">http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf</a> SARL HF Phone Contest 13:00 - 16:30 UTC 6 August Geographic Focus: Southern Africa Participation: Southern Africa
European HF Championship	

Mode: SSB  
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m  
Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band;  
Multi-Op All Band; Multi-Op Single Band  
Exchange: RS and serial no  
Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 13 August 2017  
E-mail logs to: [zs4bfm@mweb.co.za](mailto:zs4bfm@mweb.co.za)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDocDownload.aspx?X=20161222085537waqSliCvbT.PDF>

### Morsum Magnificat - amazing response!

Since the initial announcement that copies of all issues of the English edition of Morsum Magnificat were available for free download from the internet there have been over 12 500 hits on the website, demonstrating that there is still widespread interest in Morse telegraphy!

Full Index Now Available – a new addition to the downloads is a searchable consolidated index covering all issues of Morsum Magnificat, Numbers 1 to 89. With the assistance of the new index it is now possible to search the complete magazine archive with comparative ease.

All copies of the magazine together with four special MM publications - The Story of the Key, The MM Q&Z Codebook, The Key WT 8A Survey and the new Index, can now be downloaded in a single zip file instead of singly.

Please note - copies of Morsum Magnificat or associated publications downloaded from [www.n7cfo.com/tgph/Dwnlds/mm/mm.htm](http://www.n7cfo.com/tgph/Dwnlds/mm/mm.htm) are copyright and are made available for personal use only. They may not be downloaded or distributed for any commercial purpose whatsoever.

Tony Smith, G4FAI, Co-founder and first editor of the English edition of Morsum Magnificat

### Amateur Radio and the Maker Community

At FaradayRF we believe that the future of amateur radio will be built on experimentation. Equally evident, the fundamental difference between both communities regarding wireless communication is how they use it.

Makers generally use radios as a means of achieving a larger goal whereas radio amateurs generally use radios as a means of communicating. Today's young generation has also grown up with digital networks being ubiquitous. Cell phones and WiFi access has certainly influenced how they view radio fitting into society. Overall, sending data over large distances is nothing new regardless of whether it travels through wires or radio waves.

Access to cheap electronics including unlicensed radio modules have lowered the barrier of entry for hobbyists utilizing radios in projects. This raises the question if amateur radio can remain relevant by continuing to embrace the act of "making contacts" as its main goal. We think something needs to be done to change this mindset.

Read the FaradayRF blog post at <https://faradayrf.com/amateur-radio-and-the-maker-community/>

### Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 0100 - 03:00 UTC 8 August  
NAQCC CW Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 9 August  
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 August  
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 9 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 10 August  
QRP Fox Hunt, 0100 - 02:30 UTC 11 August  
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 11 August  
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 11 August  
WAE DX Contest, CW, 00:00 UTC 12 August to 23:59 UTC 13 August  
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 12 August to 24:00 UTC 13 August  
Maryland-DC QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 12 August to 04:00 UTC 13 August and 16:00 - 24:00 UTC 13 August  
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 14 August

*Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter*